



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Finance
Approved Public Hearing Minutes
Monday, March 24, 2025

I. Call to order

BOF Chair Mike Rettger called the Board of Finance Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025 at East Ridge Middle School. BOF Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Shapiro present.

II. Presentation by First Selectperson

First Selectperson Rudy Marconi provided an overview of the proposed FY 2025-2026 Town Operating budget and Capital budget. The total operating budget request, including debt service and Ridgefield Public Schools, was \$174,901,754, a 3.95% increase.

III. Presentation by School Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Susie Da Silva provided an overview of the proposed BOE-adopted Operating budget for FY 2025-2026. Fiscal year request of \$119,885,958, a 4.21% increase.

IV. Presentation by Chair of Board of Finance

BOF Chair Mike Rettger presented an overview of the annual Town budget process, BOF primary responsibilities and guidelines, relevant financial information including factors affecting budgets, and the BOF schedule for the budget meetings.

V. Public Hearing

The following residents commented regarding the proposed budgets in person and/or in writing by email, with substance briefly noted below.

Gave Comment at Public Hearing in Favor of the BOE-Adopted Operating Budget:

Mary Ellen Foley

Barry Avenue

Liz Karlan

Mallory Hill Road

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| Emily Fernandez | Ridgebury Road |
| Juan Salgado | Nod Hill Road |
| Kevin Conroy | Tackora Trail |
| Jonathan Paradiso | North Street |
| Seth Kinast | Pump Lane |
| Andy Sternlieb | Ridgecrest Drive |
| Rebecca Avallone | Tanton Hill Road |
| Julie Reynolds | Old Town Road |
| Chris McLeavey | Eustis Lane |
| Tiffany Barrett | Laurel Lane |
| Jenna Clay | Titicus Court |
| Farah Fahring | Wilton Road West |
| Caitlin Kinast | Pump Lane |
| Mary Salgado | Nod Hill Road |

Gave Comment at Public Hearing in Favor of a 4.44% Increase in BOE Operating Budget:

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| Rachel Ruggeri | Lincoln Lane |
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Gave Comment at Public Hearing Consisting of a General Critique of the Budgets:

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| Kirk Carr | Prospect Ridge |
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Provided Comment by Email, All in Favor of BOE-Adopted Operating Budget

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| Lisa Sauer | NAP (no address provided) |
| Christine Barresi | NAP |
| Stacey Gifford | Old Washington Road |
| Angela Rice | Branchville Road |
| Sarah Panagiotidis | NAP |
| Morgan Cottrell | NAP |
| RoseAnne Nagle | Shady Lane |
| Kirsten Tuohy | NAP |
| David Clay | Titicus Court |
| Kelsey DePalo | NAP |
| Ashley Chanter Rizzo | NAP |
| Jennifer Tejada | NAP |
| Kathy Ruscoe | NAP |
| Kaylee Grant | NAP |
| Michelle Pambianchi | NAP |
| Jill Cosgrove | NAP |
| Ari Bauer | NAP |
| Beth Ingram | Bennetts Farm Road |
| Kate Loewengart | Dlhy Court |
| Saasha Sutura-Hogan | Benson Road |

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| Eon Nichols | NAP |
| Artie Koellmer | NAP |
| Sari Yaffee | NAP |
| Ali Sisca | North Street |
| Kristen Tison | NAP |
| JoAnna Kelly | NAP |
| Joe Grabowski | Lewis Drive |
| Carla Velasco | NAP |
| Tara McCarthy | NAP |
| Kara Matz | Golf Court |
| Julia Teitelbaum | Barnum Place |
| Sue Safianoff | NAP |
| Amber VandeKerhoff | Stonecrest Road |
| Michelle Colletti | Sarah Bishops Road |
| Jessica Landy | NAP |
| Alison Pratt | Lewis Drive |
| Jenna Clay | Titicus Court |
| Emily Fernandez | Ridgebury Road |
| Rebecca Avallone | Tanton Hill Road |
| Kevin Conroy | Tackora Trail |

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. by Mr. Kabasakalian, seconded by Mr. Ulmer. All in favor.

Next BOF meeting March 25, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mia Belanger